TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

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DEATH ON THE ROADS

It is hard to write an editorial about death on the highways. We hear so much about this subject and we write so much about it, it almost seems as if the battle against automobile accidents and the killing and maiming of Americans is a hopeless fight.

In the recent Labor Day week-end, several hundred people were killed — despite the fact that the National Safety Council warned that three or four hundred people would be killed over the holiday.

This warning was given widespread publicity, and public officials asked motorists to drive safely over the holiday week-end.

Yet, in spite of all this effort, and the redoubled efforts of the highway departments in all the states, the lives of over four hundred people were snuffed out. That was only part of the cost. Several thousands were injured — some of them losing arms, legs, eyesight, and so on.

The usual thing — in writing an editorial — is to offer a solution to a problem. But, frankly, we know of no solution to this terrible problem. One can preach, about safe driving, safe highways, sober driving, strict enforcement of license qualifications, and so on, and the killing goes on nevertheless.

We are a big rich country, but we in the United States cannot afford to lose the lives of thirty-five thousands of our citizens a year. That is what we are losing, and that means we are losing more of our citizens through automobile accidents — in one or two years, than we lost in the the entire Korean War.

The only advice we will offer the reader, if he would save his life and live to a ripe, old age, is to stay off the highways as much as possible. That is the best system. If you do have to travel, try to pick a week-day, when vision is good, and driving conditions are not hazardous. But the only sure way is to stay off the highways.

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FOLLOWING THE CROWD

Too many of us, and the writer is no exception, tend to follow the crowd and "conform." However, much of the world's progress has been made by men and women who refused to conform when they thought the crowd, or the majority, was wrong.

It is very easy in life to accept gossip about those one has an inclination to be jealous of. It is a common fault for us to try to pull others down to our own level—if they have out-performed us in life in some way.

Moreover, the tendency of too many of us is to belittle things we do not understand, dislike those with whom we disagree, and to close our minds to learning after we have reached a certain age in life.

There is usually a high price to pay when one bucks the majority, or when one refuses to follow the crowd. If everyone around us idles away their afternoons and evenings, that is no reason why we should idle away ours.

If a certain type of work is frowned upon by the so-called social set, that is no reason why some good, honest sweat should not be expended by any man or woman who puts commonsense ahead of pride.

It is good for all of us to evaluate our lives and our philosophies and give some though to standing on our own two feet. It is easy to follow the crowd. But, remember, the crowd is often wrong.

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SEPTEMBER

It is always hard to believe that Summer is coming to an end and September has arrived.

One of the most nostalgic things about September is that it is the month of the Harvest Moon. This is the moon which rises nearest to the autumnal equinox which comes on September 23rd at 2:27 A. M. this year.

The Harvest Moon derives its name from the fact that the moon at this time of the year rises several nights at about the same time, rather than approximately one hour later each night as is customary. In earlier years before the time of lighted tractors, and so on, this afforded farmers extra time at the end of the day to gather their crops.

Historically, September has fewer historic anniversaries than most of the other months. President McKinley was shot in 1901, on September 6th, dying eight days later. The New York Stock Exchange closed its doors on September 20th in the famous 1873 panic. On September 1, 1939, Hitler marched into Poland, touching off World War II.

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1958 TAX CUT

One thing that seems to be obvious, as far as the Eighty-Fifth Congress is concerned, is the probability of an income tax cut at the next session. We have been in favor of a reduction in income taxes since the Korean War ended and we believe that one is overdue.

Between now and next January, voters in all the states will have the opportunity to talk with their senators and congressmen about the sort of tax cut they favor. Several proposals have been advanced in the House and Senate. As usual, there will be politics involved in the tax reduction bill. Some legislators in both parties may be inclined to reduce taxes for the little man — since there are more little men than wealthy men and therefore, there are more votes to be gained. Careful study should accompany any reduction, so as not to endanger further the sound economy of the nation. One way to curb reckless spending is to make less money available for appropriations and keep the ceiling on the national debt. And every dollar paid on the debt, cuts interest cost.

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There is no use in trying to regulate the world — unless you can first demonstrate that you can regulate and control yourself.

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International Uniform Sunday School Lesson

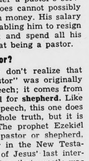
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Ezekiel 1:1-3; Ezekiel 34:23-31.
Devotional Reading: Ezekiel 34:23-31.

The Pastor

Lesson for September 15, 1957

A POPULAR name for the minister of a Protestant church in America is "Preacher." It is an unfortunate title, because it suggests that the minister's job is all talk. People by the thousands think of their minister as only a preacher, and it must be admitted that some "preachers" are that and nothing else. But talking for half an hour a week isn't the main job he has, there is something else that (if he works at it) takes up far more time. It is being a **pastor**. In churches with a paid ministry, the minister's salary is not payment for services rendered, for if he does render a pastor's service, what he does cannot possibly be measured in money. His salary is a subsidy enabling him to resign all other work and spend all his working days at being a pastor.



Dr. Foreman

What Is a Pastor?

Most people don't realize that the word "pastor" was originally a figure of speech; it comes from the Latin word for **shepherd**. Like all figures of speech, this one does not tell the whole truth, but it is very useful. The prophet Ezekiel was called a pastor or shepherd, so is Timothy in the New Testament. In one of Jesus' last interviews with Peter, that apostle was commanded: "Feed my sheep." Jesus, in fact, spoke of himself as the Good Shepherd, and in the 23rd Psalm the words are familiar, "The Lord is my Shepherd." Both Roman Catholic and Protestant churches think highly of the pastor and constantly seek better ones. Much time and expense is devoted to their training. Saint Paul (Eph. 4:11) mentions being a pastor as a special divine gift, distinct from that of the evangelist or the teacher,—though indeed some men have more gifts than one.

Leading

There is nothing strange about a minister not having a congregation. For there are various forms of the Christian ministry: including teaching, editorial writing, executive work. But the pastor carries the main responsibility of the church, and a **pastor** without a congregation is a contradiction in terms; he would be like a store keeper without a store, a pilot who never flies a plane, a father without a child. In the days when the word shepherd was first used of God's servants, as for example of the prophet Ezekiel, it brought definite ideas to people's minds, for shepherds were a common sight in that time and place. These ideas are as true as ever they were. One of them is that the shepherd **leads** the sheep. There were no neatly fenced pastures in that country; each shepherd led his flock by the creeksides, to places where he knew there would be some water left (for the creeks were often dry) and some green grass. Without the shepherd to lead them, sheep, would simply starve. So today a pastor leads his people; a man without leadership capacity is just not made for a pastor. He leads their minds, he leads their hearts. A good pastor is not a dictator, he leads by inspiring his people, not intimidating.

Feeding

The other main service a shepherd would do for his flock was to **feed** them. So the pastor of a congregation is expected to feed his flock. Not their bodies, not primarily their minds; but their hearts and lives as a whole. That is why we expect a pastor to study the Bible more deeply than we in the pews have time to do; that is why we expect him to read more widely in Christian books and magazines than the rest of us can. That is why we have a right to expect that a pastor shall have a deeper experience, and a greater wisdom on the whole, than the average church members. We want him to interpret God for us. That is why being a good pastor takes all a man's time. The pastor must mingle with his people so as to know what they need; but he must be out in front of his people in order to be able to give them what they need. If Ezekiel the prophet had been no closer to God than the people to whom he was a shepherd, he would have had nothing to give. Without a pastor, many souls will starve.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in U. S. A., Released by Community Press Service.)

Washington Notes

TOLL ROADS

Although squeezed by rising costs and declining revenue, the Bureau of Public Roads has incorporated 2,102 miles of toll roads in fifteen states into the 41,000-mile network of interstate and defense highways. Congress will now have to decide whether the Government should purchase the roads and make them toll-free, or let the states collect the tolls and maintain the highways.

P. O. LOSS

In asking Congress to approve postal rate increases to alleviate what he described as the "serious fiscal plight" of this department, Postmaster General Summerfield declared, "The Department is now losing money at the rate of more than two million dollars each working day."

'INSPECTION JUNKETS'

Immediately upon the adjournment of Congress, members of the Congress departed for far-off places for "study missions, "inspections" and "investigations." Representatives will go or have already gone to Europe, Africa, the Middle and Far East, South America, Panama, and Alaska.

CHAIN LETTERS

Following reports that chain-letter schemes are being revived, Postmaster - General Arthur Summerfield has warned senders that such letters are illegal and that they will be investigated by postal inspectors.

NO STATEHOOD

The Senate set aside until next year action on bills to grant statehood to Hawaii and Alaska. This issue has come to the attention of Congress every year for the past decade or so, with no final action being taken.

GIFTS FOR OVERSEAS G. I.'S

It has been recommended by the American Red Cross that Christmas parcels for service men overseas be mailed between No. 1, and Nov. 20, to assure delivery by surface mail, and between Dec. 1 and 10 for air mail. Suggested as gifts were wearing apparel made from easily laundered synthetics, sport clothes, phonograph records and subscriptions to newspapers.

AMERICAN TRAVEL

The United States Travel Service is making available 1,000,000 American visas by the end of the fiscal year 1960, the number of applications is expected to increase to over 800,000 in collections to more than 1,000,000. The use of jet airliners will boost 150 persons, in some cases, usher in many travel [illegible]

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EXTENSION NEWS

By G. L. JAMES
Farm Agent

We are happy to announce that Hixburg, the demonstration community for Appomattox County, won third place in Community Improvement contest with 541 points —receiving $15.00 as a cash prize. At the recent State Advisory Board meeting, held in Northumberland County, Wednesday and Thursday, September 4 and 5, Mrs. Mary Tanner and Mr. Sam Jones, and your Farm Agent attended and gave the report representing Appomattox County. The State Advisory Board is an old and established rural organization devoted to better rural living. Reports are given by one delegated from each of the 27 counties in Virginia with Cooperative Extension workers there-in. A demonstration community chosen by the local county Advisory Board - under the supervision of the Agent - works all year to improve its Farm and Home situations, in the fall of the year - check is made and an improvement score is arrived at by the summary and comparisons. The State Advisory Board meets in different counties each year, with a host county - all reports are made at this meeting.

Hixburg has done an outstanding job of lifting itself by its own bootstraps through a few years — as a Demonstration Community. New homes have been built — old ones remodeled and improved — rooms added, storage added — paint jobs — new porches — wells dug (in place of former springs) — water systems — deep freeze units purchased — gas and electric stoves — hot and running water systems; added to all these, is the improved farming methods and better livestock. As a community they have recently improved their church, Mt. Pleasant. Those of you who remember the old Hixburg— are well aware of its growth and attempt to be a better community.

For those interested persons who do know now of the progress, go visit them, and talk with those proud residents. They are happier people for their accomplishments. When you do visit, I am sure you will catch their spirit.

William Forbes, Appomattox's most outstanding 4-H Club member and project worker has enrolled at Virginia State College. We are proud of this young man, for we have worked with him since he was nine years old with his first project. William has represented Appomattox 4-H work at and in adjoining counties, state and regional levels, in competition, exhibits and leadership. We wish William the best of luck in his college training in the field of agriculture. Justly proud are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Forbes, Rt. 1, Pamplin.

TRAIN WRECKS PLANE

Corona, Calif.- While practicing landings in his light plane, Gene Maxwell lost power, brushed some trees and made a near-perfect forced landing — except for one detail. He landed on the Santa Fe right-of-way, just before a freight, bound for Santa Ana, Calif., rounded a curve. It hit the plane, demolishing it.

ANOTHER ROBIN HOOD

St. Peter, Minn.- A daughter was recently born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hood here. They named her Robin Hood.

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Is it Really Goodbye?

This little girl may never see her mother again.

She *could* be your child.

Or you *could* be behind the wheel of the car that snaps the thread of her life, or scars and maims and pains her until the end of her days.

It's not pleasant to think about it — but it *IS* time to think about it.

Every morning, millions of freshly-scrubbed little girls and boys set out for school — memory work done, written work ready to hand in, some with an apple for teacher and none with a care in the world. And every evening, some of them fail to come home. They've said their last goodbye to "Mommie."

During the last school year, over 3,000 children of kindergarten age through fourteen were killed in accidents involving motor vehicles, and the National Safety Council estimates that more than 150,000 others were injured. Legally, in many cases, it was "their fault." This doesn't make the tragedy any less. And besides, when children are hurt, it's never really "their fault." Children aren't accountable for the grim things in life. They're made for laughter and fun and love.

Every person who drives a car should think about this. Drive carefully, for in a careless moment, you may take away a small life . . . break a mother's and father's heart . . . and break your own heart, too.

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